

Message Text

PAGE 01 KINGST 05516 211337Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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P R 202130Z DEC 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3472
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5516

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: MANLEY SWORN IN AS PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WAS SWORN IN DECMEBER 20, ALONG WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE DAVID COORE AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY KEBLE MUNN. IN COURSE OF ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS, MANLEY ACCUSED OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASES OF BEING A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF POOR COUNTRIES. HE ALSO CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A "HOME GUARD" TO ASSIST SECURITY FORCES " IN PATGOLING AND POLICING JAMAICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS".

2. IN RELATIVELY BRIEF CEREMONY DEC 20, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WAS SWORN IN BY GOVERNOR GENERAL GLASSPOLE. HE TOOK AN OATH TO THE QUEEN (AND TACTFULLY AVOIDED MENTIONING HIS INTENTIONS TO ABOLISH THE MONARCHY). MANLEY DESCRIBED JAMAICA'S ECONOMY AS "SEVERELY DAMAGED" AND CALLED FOR DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE. HE EXPLAINED THAT JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC WOES HAD RESULTED FROM
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PAGE 02 KINGST 05516 211337Z

THREE FACTORS:
A. THE DETERIORATION IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC
CONDITION WHICH HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY INCREASED IN
OIL PRICES. HE DESCRIBED THE LATEST OPEC INCREASE
AS " A GRAVE BLOW

TO THE POOR OF THE WORLD" AND HE
CALLED FOR MORE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO FIND WAYS TO
EASE THE THIRD WORLD BURDEN.
B. POOR BUSINESS CONFIDENCE CAUSED BY

ATTEMPTS TO SMEAR THE PNP GOVERNMENT WITH A COMMUNIST LABEL.

C. THE CALCULATED USE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE WITHIN JAMAICA.

3. MANLEY CALLED FOR DISCIPLINE, INITIATIVE AND HARD WORK IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HE SAID THAT DETAILS OF AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM WOULD BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN A FORTNIGHT. HE CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE OPPOSITION SAYING THAT HE HAD "HELD OUT THE HAND OF COOPERATION".

4. FINALLY, MANLEY SAID THAT SECURITY IS THE "INDISPENSABLE PRE-REQUISITE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY". "WE CANNOT ALLOW CRIME TO DOMINATE OUR LIVES". HE SAID THAT IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE NEW YEAR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MOBILIZE, RECRUIT AND TRAIN A GREATLY EXPENDED HOME GUARD. HE CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE HOME GUARD TO ASSIST SECURITY FORCES AND "SEE THAT HEAVY MANNERS ARE MAINTAINED". HE SAID THAT JAMAICA "CANNOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AGAIN".

5. COMMENT: MANLEY'S BLAST AT OPEC REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL SHIFT IN JAMAICA'S POLICY; ON AN INITIAL READING, IT APPEARS TO BE A CALCULATED GESTURE TOWARD
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PAGE 03 KINGST 05516 211337Z

COOPERATION WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. THE MOVE PROBABLY REFLECTS MANLEY'S DESIRE TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH THOSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY THE U.S.) WHOSE FINANCIAL HELP WILL SOON BE SOUGHT. MANLEY MAY ALSO HOPE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE AND SPEARHEAD ANY EMERGENT THIRD WORLD TREND TO BRING PRESSURE ON OPEC FOR A BETTER OIL DEAL. THE CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A HOME ORDER HAS OMINOUS OVERTONES AND BEARS WATCHING.
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